NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

The REPORT of the SECRETARY of WAR, which, if given estire, would occupy more than ten of our columns, is necessarily abridged to accommodate it

to the space at our command. The report commences by stating that the au-13,821, officers and men; but that the actual strengm is only 10,417, of which number 8,378 proceeds to speak of the employment of the troops during the past year, as follows:

It gives me pleasure to say that the measures taken for the protection of the inhabitants of our frontiers have, under the direction of able and zealous commanders, been more than usually successful. The troops have every where been actively and constantly employed. Indian depredations have been comparatively unfrequent, and, except in California and Oregon, have not attained

more than a local importance.

In the Indian country immediately west of the Mississippi but two or three instances of collisions have occur-Arrangements are now in progress which, by the stablishment of new posts in more favorable positions, I enable the Department to dispense with a number of th smaller and less important posts; to give increased Serity to that frontier; to employ a greater force for the excenses of the military establishment in that part of the cuntry.

have been brought to the notice of the Depart-the depretations have been committed by Indians There should also be sent to the Pacific coast and stored ment the depretations have been committed by Indians public of Mexico will, in all probability, be permanent, the force on that river has been considerably increased. system, orders have been given for the establishment for postilities and collisions between the frontier inhabitants of the two countries have occurred. It is also in contemgreat trail of the Cumanche Indians crosses the Rio Grande. Other dispositions for the control of the Indians with confidence to give a very great degree of security can conveniently carry in addition to their own supplies. to both the Mexican and Indian frontiers of that State. New Mexico has been comparatively exempt from Indisn disturbances during the past year. The few that have occurred have generally been traced to marauders ninally belong have given assurances, which, it is believed, they are endeavoring in good faith to carry out, of their intention to apprehend and deliver up these ma-

pendent bands, having no general head, and were, in a great measure, destitute of firearms, their hostilities in crowding them into narrower limits, they are forced into combinations both formidable and frequent. Within the past three years their hostilities-the result, in many inthat, in Northern California and Southern Oregon alone, within this period, the lives of more than a hundred whites and several hundred Indians have been sacrificed partment some time since ordered a regiment of artillery the Pacific; and it was designed to send there an additional regiment of infantry, but it was found that the state of the service would not then, nor does it vet, admit tilities, in which more than forty lives were lost. By the riflemen. We quote what he says on this point: Territory,) in command of a volunteer force, aided by the few regular troops that were in the neighborhood, hostilities were suppressed and the Indians compelled to sue for peace. These operations appear to have been conducted with great energy and judgment, and, in the final conflict, Gen. Lane and Capt. Alden (the latter in ganization. command of the regular troops) were both severely wounded while gallantly leading a charge against the Indians. however, no assurrance that peace can be maintained unless a force adequate to the control of the Indians is stationed in their midst. It is the intention of the Department that this shall be done, and as soon as possible a considerable additional force will be sent to the Pacific, and one of the brigadier generals of the army

ordered there to command. The vast territories between the Rocky mountains and the Sierra Neyada are inhabited by numerous and warlike bends of Indians. Hostilities are now existing between them and the inhabitants of Utah Territory, and they are constantly occurring on the emigration routes through that country from the Western States to our possessions on the Pacific. It is due to our citizens who are settled and property should be protected; but the Department is without the means of fulfilling this duty.

The measures adopted by the Department of the Interior under the last Administration for the removal of the few Seminoles remaining in Florida having failed, it was considered advisable to transfer the control of these Indians to this Department, for the purpose of emigrating them to the country west of the Arkansas. An experienced officer of the army, who is well acquainted with their character and possesses their confidence, has been entrusted with this duty; and, with a view to strengthen his efforts, and at the same time be prepared to use coercive measures if such should be necessary, a force censisting of nine companies of artillery is posted in the peninsula of Florida. It is hoped that the measures thus taken will be attended with favorable results.

The appropriation of March 3d, 1853, for remounting the four additional light batteries authorized by the act of March 3d, 1847, has been found sufficient to remount but three of them. It is recommended that, in the appropriations for the support of the army for the next fiscal year, provision be made for mounting and equipping the remaining company.

For the details of the movements of troops during the past year, and their present disposition, reference is re-spectfully made to the report of the commanding general. The disposition and employment of the army in pend upon the necessities of the service; but, if nothing unforseen should occur, it is proposed to arrange two of the regiments of artillery to the Canada frontier, and to Atlantic and gulf coasts; the third to the Rio Grande boundary, and the fourth to the Pacific coast. The troops on the seabord will be concentrated as much as possible and at each of the posts occupied by them will b ed the means necessary for the instruction of officers and men'in all the duties of their profession. The same course will be adopted, as far as practicable, at the posts on the Mexican frontier and Pacific coast occupied by the artillery, and generally wherever it can be done consistently with a proper degree of economy. Of the three cavalry regiments one will be required in Texas, one in New Mexico, and the remaining one for the Western frontier, for service on the plains and for the protection of emigrants. A fourth is needed for the Pacific and the country between the Rocky mountains and the Sierra Nevada, and it is hoped that Congress will authorize its organization. Three regiments of infantry are required in Texas, two on the frontier west of the Mississippi, one in New Mexico, and the remaining two in the Indian country of the In another part of this report I shall invite your attention to the necessity for an increase of this force.

The companies of several of the regiments, particularly the cavalry and artillery, are now greatly dispersed, serving in different departments and under different commanders. Advantage will be taken of any movement of troops that may bereafter become necessary, and, without incurring any great expense for that object alone, to concentrate the companies of the same regiment as much as possible, so that they may be under a common commander, and subject, in some degree at least, to the control and supervision of their colouels or regimental commanders.
With an army three times as great as ours, it would be

impracticable so to guard all points of our extended fron-tier as entirely to prevent Indian depredations. It is, therefore, the intention of the Department to post the troops in large bodies at commanding positions among the Indians, and to restrain aggression by the exhibition of a power adequate to punish. They will not be likely to engage in hostilities if their families are in the power of

the troops during their absence. The multiplication of small posts, however much it may appear to have been called for by the necessities of the service, is of more than doubtful policy. The system is expensive far beyond any good results that are attained pany organization.

benefits of the proposed change will be an improvement and that in instruction and discipline, a greater degree of efficiency and usefulness, and a material diminution of expense.

defence of a country or the use of its army is intimately connected with the movements and positions of the personnel of that army. The facilities of communication between the depots where these supplies are stored or can
be obtained and the points on our seaboard and northern
and western frontiers where they may be required are so
great that, so far as these are concerned, no change in the

27,818, giving for a state of war an effective increase of thorized strength of the army (as now posted) is and western frontiers where they may be required are so

are employed in the frontier departments, or are and expensive, is not liable to foreign interruption, and demonstrated the wisdom of maintaining in peace a milimow on the route to them. The Secretary then would not be changed by the occurrence of war. The case tary establishment that is capable of the greatest expansive to small of the employment of the troops is somewhat different with regard to Texas, and essension in war. The increased efficiency and economy of tially so with regard to the country bordering on the Pa-cific, which, from its wealth, is the most inviting, and from its remoteness is, of all our possessions, the most exposed to the attack of a foreign enemy. In view of the ever possible contingency of war, and the difficulty of pro-viding for it after it has occurred, it becomes important to take, at as early a period as possible, all necessary pre-cautions for the security of our distant territory.

As the appropriation for the "armament of fortifications" for the last three years has either been refused or greatly reduced, under the impression that it depended upon the prosecution of the "system of permanent fortifications," it is proper to remark that this provision is not dependant upon the extent to which that system is carried, but is indispensable to any system of coast defence

that may be adopted. " The construction of permanent fortifications and the ste-rotection of the emigration crossing the great plains creation of arsenals and depots is necessarily the work of the West, and at the same time materially diminish time; but the armament for the most important points, creation of arsenals and depots is necessarily the work of same compensation as is now authorized by law. both in Texas and on the Pacific coast, should, at the earliest practicable period, be sent to them, and when in In Texas adian hostilities have diminished in fre- position temporary works sufficient for defence against quency and it importance, and in a majority of the cases any sudden attack by a naval force could readily be thrown

from Mexican turitory. As the Rio Grande is the boun- at suitable points the ordnance and ordnance stores needdary between the country and Mexico, and the positions of that frontier and the fulfilment of our treaty stipulations with the Republic of Mexico will, in all probability, be permanent, and arrangements are now being made, unday the direction of Major General Smith, and by an experienced officer of engineers, to select the most suitable positions for the attainment of these objects, and for the construction of field works for their character. With a water transportation of sixteen thousand miles, and land routes impracticable for the transportation of heavy supplies, it will be too late to adopt these measures when the communication by sea is liable to interruption; and no prudent nation should trust, their character. With a water transportation of the superior thousand miles, and land routes impracticable for the thousand miles, and land routes impracticable for the transportation of heavy supplies, it will be too late to the pay of officers of the army was established many transportation. system, orders have been given for the establishment for a strong post on the Rio Grande, opposite the Mexican future that no human sagacity can foresee. As many of town of El Paso, in the neighborhood of which Indian cific are now in depot in the Atlantic States, no great expense or loss would be sustained by their transfer, even plation to establish a large post at the point where the if the necessity for their use should not occur for many years to come. As a measure of prudence and economy in the transportation of such as may be sent to the Pacion the northern frontier of Texas are also in progress; inc, it is suggested that, whenever naval vessels are sent and when they are completed the Department hopes to that coast, there be sent with them such stores as they

Then follow a variety of details relating to the recruiting service, in which the country is informed of the scarcity of recruits, the number and relative proportions and outlaws, for whose actions none of the tribes of that of deserters, the indisposition of soldiers to re-enlist, country can justly be held responsible. Those to which &c.; all of which results are ascribed to two principal causes, viz: first, the disparity between the pay of the soldier and the value of labor in civil life; and, secondly, of their intention to appreciate and plundered by them.

randers and restore the property plundered by them.

The Indians of California and Oregon are numerous either in increased pay, rank, or privilege. The remedial gible for the position of commissioned officers.

I recommend to appreciate who were not consideration of commissioned officers.

I recommend to favorable consideration the suggestions. and provision for the promotion to the lowest grade of previous years were not important. Now, however, that the rapidly-extending settlements of those countries are officers of the army as may be found qualified for, and, by driving the Indians from their accustomed haunts and their character and services, entitled to such advancement. And, in order to provide for such non-commissioned officers as are not qualified to become commissionstances, of the intrusion and aggressions of the whites- ed officers, it is recommended that authority be granted have been almost uninterrupted, and it is officially known to appoint a limited number of fort-keepers or barrackmasters, to be employed at the permanent fortifications not occupied by troops, as substitutes for the civil agents whites and several hundred findians have been sacrinced in cellisions between the two races. The force in that country is not now, and never has been, sufficient; and, ments, receiving a compensation intermediate between impressed with the idea of its entire inadequacy, the De- that of the highest grade of non-commissioned and lowest grade of commissioned officers.

The Secretary then recommends an increase in the rank and file of the army, by increasing the minimum of it. The first mail from the Pacific, subsequent to the organization of the companies to sixty-four privates, and issue of this order, brought intelligence of renewed hos- by adding one regiment of dragoons and two regiments of regularity and uniformity in these returns, requisite to

ur attention to the necessity for an increase of the army. It may be instructive to the consideration of this subject to refer to the strength of our military establishment as it has existed at different periods, and to the circumstances that controlled its or In 1808 the legal strength of the army was 9,991, which

was increased early in the year 1812, "for the defence of the Indian frontier," to 10,353. The war with England owed soon after this increase, and at its conclusion the "peace establishment" was fixed at 12,383, officers and men, and so continued until 1821, when it was reced to 6,126. This organization was continued until 1882, when it was increased to 7.129. In 1836 it was inreased to 7,958, and in 1838 to 12,139. These last additions were made during the existence of Indian hostilities (the Black Hawk and Florida wars.) and although previously recommended with the view of preventing them, were not authorized until their actual occurrence had demonstrated the wisdom of the recommendation. In 1842, at the close of the Florida war, the army was reduced to 8,613, which number, with slight changes, in or pass through those remote regions that their lives | was continued until, in the early part of 1846, the regiment of mounted riflemen was added for the protection of the emigration on the Oregon route, making the aggregate 9,418. At the close of the war with Mexico its or ganization was fixed at 10,120. In 1850 it was increased y a sliding scale, which admitted a total strength, if all companies of the army were posted, at "remote stations," of 14,781. As they are now posted, the authorized strength is 18,821, but, for reasons which have already been explained, the actual number is less by 3,326 men.

It will be seen by the above statements that, in a period of forty-five years, the military peace establishment of the country has been augmented less than four thou sand men. In the same period our country has increased in population more than eighteen millions, and in terriory a million of square miles. In 1808 our Indian frontier requiring troops for its protection was less than one thousand miles in extent, and there were no long lines of communication requiring defence. Now that frontier has increased to more than three thousand miles, and our communications through the Indian country-traversed annually by thousands of our citizens, and requiring protection-to more than four thousand miles. Our seaboard and foreign frontier have been greatly increased, and of the latter over two thousand five hundred miles are Mexican frontier, along which, besides the duty of guarding and protecting our own inhabitants, is the superadded obligation (by treaty) of protecting the inhabitants of Mexico from the ndians living within our limits. By the annexation of Texas and the acquisition of New Mexico and California our Indian population has been increased from 240,000 to more than 400,000, a very large portion of whom, pre-datory and warlike in their habits, are for the first time brought into contact with our people. The result of this is a state of continued disturbance. It has been the polcy of our Government, by grants of land and pre-emption ghts, to induce the rapid settlement of our Western wilds. This involves the duty of protection. The intimate contact thus produced between the two races, the proneness of the Indian to maraud and of the whites to atrude upon the Indian lands, cause constant collision Aggressions on the part of either lead to retaliation, which, unfortunately, falls far more frequently upon the ocent and unoffending than upon the guilty, and reta-ion leads to war. To repress these disturbances, liation leads to war. cops must be collected from different points and transorted over difficult and expensive routes to the scene of he troubles, or the militia of the country must be called out. In either case, heavy expenditures, without considering the derangement of business and the loss of life and property, are the consequence. In the mean time rtions of the frontier are stripped of the troops required for their defence, and this weakness invites new aggression, and renders new movements of troops and renewed expenditures necessary for their suppression. As the natural consequence of this, the expenditures of the army are very great in proportion to its strength. A reasonable increase of the army, if it did not entirely prevent these disturbances, would at least diminish their quency, and produce immense saving of money, property, and life.

another part of this report. The force allotted to each manifestly inadequate. It cannot be increased in any one of them without withdrawing troops from other points where their presence is equally necessary. Your attention is respectfully invited to the recommendation of the general-in-chief in relation to this subject. In the views expressed by him I fully concur, except that I am of the opinion that a portion of the increase which he recommends should be attained by the addition of another regiment, rather than by the proposed increase of the com-

The disposition of the army, and the assignment

troops to the frontier departments, have been stated in

resent arrangement seems necessary.

The communication with New Mexico, though tedious regiments. The experience of the last forty years has companies, thus expanded in war from a nucleus of experienced and disciplined men, more than compensate for the additional expense of maintaining skeleton regiments

in time of peace.

I also recommend that another company of sappers and miners be added to the engineer corps for the purposes for which the present company was authorized. The use-fulness and economy of this class of soldiers has been

practically demonstrated both in peace and war.

The duties of hospital stewards are of a very important character, requiring a considerable degree of intelligence and general knowledge. There is no provision for their enlistment, and it is sometimes difficult to find suitable persons among the enlisted men of the army. It is reommended that authority be given for the enlistment, under the direction of the Surgeon General, of as many as may be necessary for the public service, to receive the

I concur fully in the views expressed by the Commanding General in relation to the extension of the pension system to the widows and orphans of officers and soldiers of the regular army, and commend the subject to your favorable consideration.

The experience of every year gives increased force to the recommendations heretofore made for a retired list for disabled and superannuated officers. The casualties of repair of all the material of war the should also be gears past would retire them on a just compensation, promote controlled the same of t

years ago, when the value of money was much greater than at this time. What was then only a reasonable and just compensation is now entirely inadequate and I accordingly recommend to your favorable consideration the propriety of its being increased in proportion to the increased cost of living. This is only a measure of justice to all; but it is especially due to those whose duries require them to serve at stations where the comforts, and often the necessaries, of life command such exorbitant prices as to place them beyond the reach of thos who have no other means than their pay.

The 17th section of the act of March 3, 1847, authorized

to attach non-commissioned officers who disinguished themselves in the war with Mexico by brevet of the lowest rank to any company, and to bestow certificates of merit upon soldiers who were in like manner distinguished. Many of the non-commissioned officers who were re-commended for distinguished conduct were not attached in consequence of a want of qualification, but would have received a certificate of merit if the terms of the law had not precluded it. It is respectfully recommended that the President be now authorized to grant certificates of merit to non-commissioned officers who were not considered eli-

of the Quartermaster General, in his report submitted herewith, for the increase of the comfort of troops in barracks, the augmentation of the allowance to solders when unavoidably employed as mechanics, teamsters, and laborers, and also the proposed changes in relation to storekeepers and barrack-masters, and the settlement of the counts of disbursing officers.

The act of 1808 for "arming and equipping the whole body of the militia of the United States" makes an appropriation for supplying the several States and Territories annually with such arms and equipments asare used by the United States troops, the "quota" due to each being determined by apportioning the whole amount ac-cording to the returns of the militia made to the Adjutant General of the army. These returns are furnished irregularly by some of the States, and by others not at all; and it results from this irregularity that the actual supplies of arms and equipments furnished to the States and Territories under the law of 1808 are not distributed, as prescribed by that law, "in proportion to the number of the effective militia in each;" nor is it probable that the apportion these supplies as the law requires, can be atthe mode of apportioning the arms and equipments to the who superintends their operations and audits the acseveral States and Territories, authorized in the case of the State of Iowa by the act of March 3, 1853, which parties, but does not receive the money, or assume any the State of Iowa by the act of March 3, 1853, which was according to representation in Congress.

In connexion with this subject, I respectfully invits your attention to the importance of providing the militia of the country with the proper books for tactical instruction. They are furnished with arms at the expense of the United States; and although they are required by existing laws to observe the systems of instruction adopted for the regular army, no provision has yet been made for supplying them with the necessary books for that pur-According to the estimate of the general-in-chief an annual appropriation of \$20,000 for a few years would proprietors. The pier, which had originally abutted on

be sufficient for this object. The Military Academy at West Point is next referred to, and honorable testimony borne to the efficiency and value of the institution, as set forth in the Report of the

last Board of Visiters. The fortifications of the country is the next subject which engages the attention of the Secretary. We copy all that he says under this head :

The appropriations made at the last session of Congress are all in the course of application to the several works were designed to protect interests of great value; accommodation easy; the riparian pr but there are other points of sea-coast and interior frontier the pier only for a wharf, were conte fortifications will be the most reliable, and by far the he growth of our country, the increased facilities of war, have lessened, if they have not removed, the necessity for fortifications upon our frontier. This is an opin-verted to individual profit. ion which is apt to result from a long-continued state of defensive war.

President Monroe, than whom few will be considered higher authority on this subject, in a special message to Congress, March 26, 1822, urged the completion of the system of defences which was adopted immediately after, and in view of the effects of, the war of 1812, and urged his recommendation by the enormous expense, the waste of life and property, and the general distress of the country, which had resulted from the want of such preparaons before the commencement of that war; and he further gave this impressive admonition: " Should another inevitable consequences; and should such war occur, and find us unprepared for it, what will be our justification of our Government which would indicate in the future a purpose to sustain a large military establishment or to chase land, either with or without the conserwage aggressive wars. If, then, in the future, as in the past, the policy of our Government is to be that of peace, and the citizens of the country are to be relied on for its and the citizens of the country are to be relied on for its defence whenever war shall occur, it is not perceived how of each President under whose administration they occurthe past or prospective growth of our country can remove

the past of propriety of the proposed defences.

The Paixhan gun, and other improvements in the implements of war, and the application of steam to the pro-pulsion of vessels of war, seem to me-rather to have increased than diminished the value of fortifications. The rapid progress of a steam fleet, by diminishing the oppor-tunity for preparation after the point of attack is deter-mined, increases the necessity of fortifying the main avenues of approach. The Paixhan gun adds to the efficiency, and consequently to the value, of fortifications; for the fire of large shells is more formidable to the timbers and rigging of a ship than to the masonry of a fort, and a steam vessel must expose a larger surface subject o injury than a sail vessel of the same class.

The report of the Secretary of War, in answer to a relution of the House of Representatives of the 3d of March, 1851, containing the views of the chief engineer of the army and other officers of that corps and of the navy, presents the whole subject under consideration so fully that it is not deemed necessary to add more on The action of Congress at its last session is considered

ndicative of the intention to continue this system of defence, and gives reason to hope that the appropriation asked for at this session for the further prosecution of these works will not be withheld.

After a full consideration of what is now and probably efficiency of troops, and it is believed that it often invites aggression by that exhibition of weakness which must intended the great dispersion of any force. The benefits of the proposed change will be an improvement in instruction and discipline, a greater degree of efficiential instruction and discipline, a greater degree of efficiential to the discipline, instruction, and probably will hereafter be required of the army, I urgently recomplication of the appropriation made at the last session of Congress, tonnage duties should be laid of the consent of Congress, tonnage duties should be laid of the consent of Congress for the defence of the harbor of San Francisco. But the minute examinations requisite before the combination of the appropriation and with purposes of harbor and river improvement. This mead that the minute examinations requisite before the consent of Congress, tonnage duties should be laid of the consent of Congress for the defence of the harbor of San Francisco. But the minute examinations requisite to every section, which period the probably will hereafter be required of the army, I urgently recombined the consent of Congress, tonnage duties should be laid of the consent of Congress for the defence of the harbor of San Francisco. But the minute examinations requisite to every section, which provides the consent of the proposes of harbor and river improvement. This mead that the minimum organization of the appropriation and with the consent of Congress, tonnage duties should be laid of the consent of Congress for the defence of the appropriation o will hereaster be single from the great dispersion of any force. The benefits of the proposed change will be an improvement in instruction and discipline, a greater degree of efficiency and usefulness, and a material diminution of expense. The cy and usefulness, and a material diminution of expense. This increase is materially less than that recommended the material of war required for the companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minimum organization of all companies be mend that the minute examinations requisite before the companies or the minute examinations requisite before the companies or the minute examinations requisite before the companies or the minute examinations or the minute examinations requisite before the companies or the minute examinations requis

The Secretary then relates what has been done by the Department in execution of the law of last Congress making an appropriation of \$150,000 to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from from 10,000 to 12,000 men without the creation of new the Mississippi river to the Pacific ocean—the results to be laid before Congress by the first Monday in February next. The time allowed and the money appropriated, it is feared, will prove insufficient for the complete solution of this important problem. A vast extent of country was to be accurately surveyed, and numerous lines, thousands of miles in extent, to be examined. It is hardly to be hoped, therefore, that such data can be collected as will satisfactorily answer the question proposed, though it is confidently believed that much information will be added to the stock previously possessed-perhaps enough to determine the practicability of the proposed enterprise. The Secretary presents a general sketch of the country to be explored, in order to convey some idea of the magnitude of the examination required. He then alludes at some length to the results of surveys previously made, as well as to the operations of the general surveying parties now in the field. It has been ascertained that Walker's Pass, which was considered a fixed point in the route, is of populous States and of commercial cities. The appli impracticable for a railway. Beyond this the information which has been received is too limited and imperfect to justify an opinion on the question proposed by the act of Congress. The Secretary does not deem it proper, in provided for. this communication, to offer his views as to the means by which the General Government may constitutionally aid in the attainment of the contemplated object.

The importance of this road is argued on the grounds that navigable streams are rare in the Western country, and great expense is incurred in the transportation of supplies, and in ensuring the services of troops stationed there as a protection against the Indians. The inconveniences arising from the use of wagons drawn by horses, mules, or oxen are given fully. The Secretary states valueless. briefly the beneficial results which would arise from an introduction of the dromedary into the military service, which he argues from the success arising from their employment in the Eastern countries. He also touches upon the importance of an appropriation being made for the fort at the junction of the rivers Gila and California.

The works of harbor and river improvement have made satisfactory progress during the past season, for the particulars of which the Secretary refers to the reports of the chiefs of the two corps of engineers having direction information respecting the interior of the continent which of these works. We copy what is further said on this subject by the Secretary :

The appropriations for these works having been made in August, 1852, the arrangements for executing a large majority of them had been made before I entered upon the duties of this Department. In determining upon the few plans that have been submitted to me, my view has been that such only should be adopted as could be executed with the existing appropriations. The general pro-vision in regard to these works is a simple direction to apply a certain sum to a specified object, without any intimation of an intention on the part of Congress to make further appropriations; and I deemed it to be improper to expend those appropriations in commencing works on a scale which the Department has not means to complete, and which must in a good measure be lost unless Congress make further appropriations for them. These views, however, were not held by the Department when most of the works authorized by the act of August, 1852, were planned; but the mode, extent, and cost of the several improvements seem to have been considered as matters of discretion, and the plans adopted for their execution de not seem to have been governed, in regard to costs, by amounts of the apprepriations, but would require for their completion large additional grants, amounting in some cases to almost ten-fold the original appropriations. In some cases corporations and associans of citizens have come forward with offers of voluntary contributions in aid of the appropriations made by Congress; but as it was not deemed competent for this Department to receive money from such sources, either by way of loan or gift, a regulation was adopted under which States, cities, corporations, or individuals de-siring to aid any work are permitted to construct porof the officer in cl control whatever over it. Such parties, moreover, have been distinctly informed that they were to have no claim whatever upon the Government for reimbursement of the

expenditure thus made by them. In the prosecution of these works of internal improvement the Department has encountered some of those difficulties which were to be expected from the indefinite nature of its powers in regard to them." In a recent case the right of the United States to a pier erected for the improvement of a harbor was disputed by the riparian their lands, caused an accretion which followed its extension far into the lake, and these parties, who were entitled to the accretion, claimed the pier also, as attached thereto. The United States having possessed no title to the submerged soil, or other jurisdiction than that claimed by the General Government over navigable waters, the question involved the power to preserve the work. In another case the improvement of the navigation of a river entirely within the limits of a State, and for which an appropriation had been made by Congress, was found already to have been undertaken by a company under a gress are all in the course of application to the several state charter granted for that purpose. It suppened in both cases that circumstances existed which rendered an accommodation easy; the riparian proprietors, wanting which equally require protection; and the estimates sub- sion under the Government, waiving the question of title; mitted for these also are recommended to favorable con- and the navigation company were willing that the approsideration, under the belief that when completed these priation should be expended in furtherance of the object for which it was made, the plans of operation fortunatemost economical, mode of defence the Government could ly concurring; so that satisfactory terms were agreed rovide. An opinion has to some extent prevailed that upon. It is manifest, however, that cases might readily occur, and probably will occur, where the interests of transportation, the application of steam to the propulsion opposing parties cannot be brought into harmony, and I of war vessels, and the improvements in implements of do not feel that the Government is acting prudently in expending large sums upon objects which may be con-

Referring to the earlier action of the Government upon peace, and which history teaches has been usually aban- this subject, we find, in several statutes prior to 1823, oned when nations have been submitted to the test of the cession of jurisdiction made a condition precedent to the construction of particular works of harbor improvement; and it appears by the language of the act of May 7, 1822, (8 Statutes, 699,) that such cessions were understood to be necessary in all cases. But the requirement was thereafter discontinued, and the practice of ob-taining cession of jurisdiction ceased also.

Subsequently, in view of the danger of eviction from public works after the expenditure of large sums of pub-lic money upon them, a joint resolution, approved Sep-tember 11, 1841, required that no public money be exther gave this impressive admonition: "Should another war occur before it is completed, the experience of the past marks, in characters too strong to be mistaken, its inevitable consequences, and should not be mistaken, its inevitable consequences, and should not be mistaken, its inevitable consequences, and should not be mistaken, its ever, until the written opinion of the Attorney General shall be had in favor of the validity of the title, and also to the enlightened body whom we represent for not hav-ing completed these defences:" The increase of our po-pulation, attended by extraordinary progress in all the pulation, attended by extraordinary progress in all the dureuits of peace, has not led to any change in the policy of our Government which would indicate in the future a ment of harbors or rivers, or deemed it necessary to purpose to sustain a large million. chase land, either with or without the consent of the Le-

The legislation of Congress and the past action of this red, did not leave me at liberty to regard it as an open question whether or not the act does properly include within its meaning such constructions as are made for the protection and improvement of harbors and rivers. To guard against the conflict of jurisdiction, which may equally arise on the site of a pier, a jettee, or breakwater, as upon that of a fort, dock-yard, or custom-house, and warned by recent experience of the probability of such occurrence, it is submitted whether future appropriations, if any shall be made for such construcshould not be subjected to the requirements of the act of 1841, before referred to, and the conduct of the Government thus be made to correspond with its earlier action and conform more strictly to the provisions of the 8th section of the 1st article of the constitution in relation to the purchase of places for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful buildings.

improvement, or by pursuing the policy recommended by President Monroe, and restricting the appropriations to works to be commenced and executed under State authority. The barrier thus sought to be interposed by President Monroe rested on a distinction which seems soon to have been forgotten or disregarded, and in 1848 President The exposed and defenceless condition of the Pacific Polk endeavored to restore the Government to its original coast claimed and received the early attention of the Depolicy, proposing as a substitute for appropriations from

to every section, which pervades the constitution and characterizes all its provisions, would certainly avoid that conflict of jurisdiction to which attention has been invited, and, in all places having a considerable commerce sub-ject to the imposition of tonnage duties, would be entirely adequate.

For the protection of ships-of-war and of commerce from storms and the attacks of hostile fleets, lake and sea-coast harbors of refuge are essential adjuncts to other means of national defence, and intimately connected with the maintenance of a navy. As such harbors would sometimes have little or no commerce, and these special duties and taxes could not be made available for their improvement and protection, it would be requisite in such a difference in favor of the Government arms of more than cases to treat the constructions as Government works, and two to one. The case is believed to be a fair one, and to to acquire the right of soil and jurisdiction over the site. The public right of use of all the navigable waters of the United States belonging equally to all their citizens, and some of the rivers of our country washing many States, and consequently not subject to the jurisdiction of either, these restored by the state of the country washing many States, and consequently not subject to the jurisdictions of either, these national highways bear peculiar relations as such to the powers and functions of the General Government; its dependance upon them for the transportation indispen-sable for the defence of the frontiers, and the other vast interests which are involved, are so well known that it cannot be necessary to enforce or elucidate them.

In considering these necessities and interests one is forcibly reminded of the change which has occurred in the condition of our country since the date when the Union was founded. The population and commerce are no longer confined to tide-water and the neighborhood of the seacoast, but the unexplored wilderness has become the seat cation of steam to river navigation has borne the tide of commerce for thousands of miles beyond the tide of the sea, and a case is herein presented which the framers of the constitution could not have anticipated or specifically

If the enjoyment of this public right, and the laterest and convenience of the General Government, shall be deemed sufficient to warrant further operations for the removal of temporary and accidental obstructions in their natural channels, additional appropriations will be re-quired for the expenses of the steam-dredges and snagboats; but if the Congress shall decide to discontinue their employment for this purpose, it will be advisable that directions should be given to dispose of the boats, and other means which have been provided for their use, before deterioration and decay shall have rendered them

The survey of the lakes, as it progresses, continues to afford results of practical usefulness. No appropriations for military and geographical surveys west of the Mississippi have been made for some few years past; but with the remains of former appropriations some explorations, promising results of much value, have been undertaken. The Secretary hopes that Congress will concur in the expediency of continuing these appropriations, which (he says) have afforded the means of obtaining that general is so necessary to the Government, and of such essential advantage to the population now spreading itself over those Territories.

Contracts have been made for the continuation of roads n Minnesota, agreeably to the provisions of the act of January 7, 1853. Under an act of the same date two military roads in Oregon have been placed in charge of a competent officer, with instructions to complete a wagon road as speedily as possible. The Report proceeds:

By the 3d section of the law approved March 3, 1853, it is enacted "that the Secretary of War be directed to report to Congress whether, in his opinion, it would not be more economical, proper, and advisable to cause all the arms of the United States to be made by contract." In complying with this requirement, I shall exclude all political considerations involved in the question of manufactures by the General Government, and, as I suppose was intended, confine the expression of opinion to the relations the subject bears to the military service, and to the relative merit of the existing system, and that of contracting for the manufacture of all arms. Viewing the the aids which science could lend; and, in view of the armories as a part of the military preparations for the many unsuccessful attempts which have been made in common defence, it is deemed essential that they should our own and other countries to attain that result, success common defence, it is deemed essential that they should be under the control of the War Department, and advantageous, if not necessary, that such establishments should exist under the charge of competent and experienced officers of the army, to the end that a uniformity may be obtained, and all the improvements and efficiency secured which professional zeal and skill would seek and produce. To this, the existing state of the case, as a standard, I have referred to the proposition to make all arms by contract, and have reached the following conclusions:

Our own and other countries to attain that result, success will be, in addition to this special object, the modifications proposed were believed otherwise to increase the convenience and facilitate the intercourse of the Houses of Congress, and materially to add to the architectural effect of the building. As soon as the plans submitted received your approval, the consequent changes in the foundation walls were pressed with all possible rapidity; and the work has since then been steadily prosecuted without other delay than that which has necessarily resulted from

facture than by contract. Labor and all materials may in other markets which could be made available be obtained upon as good, if not better, terms by the stain which appeared upon the marble after it had been public than by private armories, because of the greater placed in the walls created some anxiety, and specimens promptness and security of payment. The permanence of employment must constitute an inducement to work-men to enter the national workshops. But suppose, then, things to be equal-and the disadvantage cannot certainly be on the side of the Government-it follows that the original cost would not be greater in the public than in have been possible elsewhere to procure a material which the private armory. To this, in the cost of the Govern-ment manufacture, there is nothing to add. But in the case of the private contractor there must be a profit on the manufacture, not only sufficient to cover the interest on the investment, but also the hazard which will attend a contract necessarily made for a short period. Experience has established several facts which seem to my mind conclusive as to the economy of the present mode of manufacturing small arms. Since the year 1840 the cost of making muskets has been so much reduced as to exclude competition, and no contracts have since that year been made for the manufacture of muskets. The prices paid for those then contracted for were as high as \$16.25 for some, and not less than \$14.50 for the residue. At the national armories the prices averaged about \$10 for muskets. Since 1840 the contract price for rifles, based on the cost of the national armories, has been reduced from \$14.50 to \$11.624 each, which exceeds the cost of that arm at Harper's Ferry armory during the last

Without the practical knowledge of the actual cost of anufacturing arms now secured to the Government by the results at the national armories, there would be standard for determining proper rates for contracts; and without the means which these armories afford to supply the wants of Government, there is reason to believe it might be subject to extraordinary prices for arms from time to time required.

2d. As to the propriety of the measure. It is believed that national establishments for the manufacture of arms are necessary to improve their models and to keep up the standard of materials and workmanship. Whilst the interest and the professional reputation of an officer of the army in charge of a national armory would impel him to introduce all improvements, his military associations would lead him to learn, and his military experience teach him the value of new modifications made either in his own or other countries. On the other hand, the interest of the private contractor would be indefinitely to reproduce the model originally furnished to him. secause every change would require either the abandonment of his tools, machinery, &c., or a modification to adapt them to the manufacture of the improved model. For this reason, and also because his workmen would be less expert upon a new modification than upon a form to which they were accustomed, every change would be to cers. The report of the Commanding General exhibits the contractor an evil, in which he would see increased

trouble and diminished profits. The national armories are also necessary to keep up the standard of workmanship and finish in the contract real, and fide ty have done much to compensate for the establishments. The arms made by contract are subjected to inspection by workmen detached from the na tional armories for that purpose. These inspectors, when not employed in the contract service, resume their position at the national armories, and return to each contract inspection with a refreshed recollection of the standard of excellence of the Government work. This advantage would be lost if all arms were made by contract, and the tendency would be steady deterioration by the slow and imperceptible sinking of the standard, instead of the improvement which has resulted from the furnishing of new models, and constant improvements in the Government manufactures, to which the inspectors require the

contract arms to conform.

3d. As to the advisability of the measure. If the views taken under the two other heads be correct, it follows that it would not be advisable to make all arms by contract. Neither would I think it wise to restrict the manufacture of all arms to the national armories. Pistols, for instance, are now made by contract, because the demand for them is so small that it was deemed more economical to procure them by contract than to provide the separate machinery and tools required for their manufacture, at least until a model for that arm shall be adopted more satisfactory than the one now in use, and likely, therefore, to be more permanent. Also, small numbers of peculiar arms are sometimes required, and in such cases it may be better to procure them by contract than to provide the machinery required for their peculiar con struction. But it is still more important that the Government should have the power to contract for the manufacture of arms, in the event of an exigency under which a greater number might be required than the public armories, upon a scale adapted to ordinary circumstances, would be able to supply. Instead of any conflict in the

from being driven by its necessity to submit to extraor

dinary demands, and perhaps injurious delays.

It is believed that the excellence of the Government manufacture has not been quite equalled by those of private contractors, even with all the advantages that now exist in supplying models and inspectors. Upon exami nation of a report made by the commander of the arsenal to which the rifles of the voltigeur regiment in the war with Mexico were returned, it appears that of the total number, 523, the 257 made at the national armory required the repair of 45 of their parts; the 266 made by contract required the repair of 96 of their parts—showing a difference in favor of the Government arms of more than present conclusive proof of the higher standard of material and workmanship in the Government arms.

It is not known whether by the use of the term "all the arms of the United States" it was intended to include the heavy guns or cannon. I will, however, remark that all eannon are now made by contract, Congress having made no provision for a national foundry, and wil take this occasion to recommend an appropriation for that object. The just admixture of metals, and the casting of broaze pieces, require much mechanical skill and no little scientific attainment. The examination of ores and the casting of iron into cannon is a subject which has attracted much consideration from the ordnance department, and presents a wide field for further investigation and experiment. The rigid inspection which such guns now re-ceive has improved and is still impreving their quality; but it is believed there would be a more rapid advance in knowledge, and a higher standard of excellence attained if the advantage of a national foundry were possessed.

The Secretary earnestly urges the establishment of a national armory on the Western waters-his favorite proposition for the accomplishment of which purpose appearing to be the removal to the West of one of the armories already established.

The Secretary concludes his Report by referring to the improvements of the Government buildings and other property in this city. We copy that portion entire, as being of interest to all of our readers :

The work for the extension of the Capitol, which by your order of the 23d of March was transferred from the Department of the Interior to the War Department, has been prosecuted with due diligence, under the special charge of Captain M. C. Meigs, of the corps of engineers; and it gives me pleasure to bear testimony to the man-ner in which that officer has discharged his duty, fully sustaining his reputation for professional skill, zeal, and fidelity. He was placed upon this duty April 4, 1853, and directed specially to examine into the condition of the foundation which had been previously laid, and minutely to inquire into the arrangements for warming, ventilating speaking, and hearing.

A thorough examination of the foundation was made by excavating down to the soil upon which it rested, and by cutting at different points into or through the mason-The result was a report that less hydraulic lime had been used than was desirable, but that the strength of the foundation was sufficient for the proposed structure. The arrangements for ventilation and hearing were not found satisfactory, and, these being the great objects sought in the proposed extension, certain alterations in the plans were designed, and a board, composed of Professors A. D.

Bache and Joseph Henry, was commissioned May 20, 1853, to make inquiries upon acoustics and ventilation, as connected with the adopted plan and proposed alteration. The board visited and made experiments in the principal public rooms of the cities of Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. After full examination of the various rooms visited, and a discussion of the phenomena presented, they reported on the 24th June last in favor of the modifications of the plans for the extension of the Capitol

as proposed by Captain Meigs.

To construct a room of sufficient dimensions for the House of Representatives, so as to secure to each member the power easily to make himself heard from his seat

1st. As to the economy of the measure. Under a pro- other delay than that which has necessarily resulted from per administration of a national armory, it is believed occasional interruption in the delivery of material; and that arms can be obtained cheaper by Government manu- these have been overcome as far as might be by purchases were submitted to skilful chemists for analysis. sults gave assurance that the discoloration would disappear, and, in some instances, observation has sustained that expectation. This is the more gratifying because the marble is of most beautiful quality, and it might not would have corresponded with it.

I refer for further details to the accompanying report of Capt. Meigs, and, with a view to a rapid completion of the building, recommend to favorable consideration the estimate presented by him for the service of the year ending 1855.

An appropriation was made at the last session of Congress for the purpose of bringing water into the city of Washington. In order to obtain an ample and constant supply from a source so elevated as to avoid the necessity for the use of machinery, it was decided that the water should be brought from the Great Falls of the Potomac, through a conduit nine feet in diameter. Upon the adoption of this plan, immediate application was made to the Legislature of Maryland, in which State the source of supply lies, for their assent to the proposed work, which being given on conditions readily complied with, some portions of the necessary land were selected and purchased, and, as soon as the season would permit, a conconsiderable force was put upon the work. The works are estimated to cost rather less than \$2,300,000, and when completed will be capable of delivering nearly 70,000,000 gallons of water daily, at an elevation of fourteen feet above the upper floor of the Capitol. For further information and details. I refer to the report of the Chief Engineer.

I deem it necessary to invite attention to the condition of the public building occupied by this Department, which contains accommodations for less than half its bureaus, and not being fire-proof, but, on the contrary especially defective in its construction, does not afford per security for the numerous papers and recordsthe loss of which would be irreparable. This subject has been repeatedly urged upon the attention of Congress by my predecessors, and I concur with them as to the necessity of providing a fire-proof building of sufficient dimensions to accommodate all the bureaus connected with this Department.

To the accompanying reports of the Commanding General of the army and the chiefs of the several branches of the military service I refer for full information in re lation to the duties with which they are respectively charged. For the success which attends the administration of army affairs we are in no small degree indebted to the ability, experience, and good faith of these offithe distribution and numerical strength of the army, and shows how disproportionate our small military establishment is to the duties required of it. Professional skill, want of numbers; but the increased privation, toil, and danger incident to a service so varied and extensive have greatly added to its list of casualties during the past

HORRIBLE ACCIDENT .- At Whitehall, Vermont, on the Sd instant, the engine of a train was thrown off the track and the legs of the engineer caught between that and the tender in such a way that he could not be extricated. The fire from the engine was scattered over him, and in his agony he begged for some one to kill him. No one being willing to relieve him in that way, and every other attempt to release him having failed, he took a knife and cut off his own leg at the knee joint. The terrible operation was too severe to be endured, and he died in about

TERRIBLE CONFLAGRATION IN MINNESOTA .- The St. Paul Democrat has been favored with the perusal of a letter from Selkirk settlement on the Red river, dated 3d instant, by which it learns that a terrible and destructive fire swept over that settlement on the 30th and 31st ultimo, devouring every thing in its course, and spreading terror and consternation through the community. Several citizens had been severely or fatally burnt, several thousand tons of hay destroyed, and an immense num-ber of horses killed. At Oak Hammock twenty-seven

horses were destroyed in one band. Mr. George Fletcher, of London, who will be one hundred and seven years old next February, recently preached at the Methodist Chapel, Nottingham. He walks perfectly upright, can read clear print with the aid of glasses, can hear tolerably well, and is remarkably cheerful and